Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listing of claims for this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) In **an** ~~a common rail~~ injector for injecting fuel in ~~a common rail injection system of~~ an internal combustion engine, **said injector** having an injector housing (1) which communicates with a central high-pressure reservoir and ~~in which~~ a nozzle needle (14) that cooperates with a valve piston (6) which is **axially displaceable and** guided in a valve piece (2)~~, is axially displaceable,~~ the improvement wherein the end of the nozzle needle (14) toward the valve piston (6) protrudes into a guide sleeve (16), **and** ~~in which~~ the end of the valve piston (6) **or an end**[[, or]] of a thrust rod (8) triggered by the valve piston (6), oriented toward the nozzle needle (14) is **also** received **in the guide sleeve (16)**.

2. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, wherein in the end of the nozzle needle (14) toward the valve piston (6), a blind bore is embodied centrally, **and** the end of the valve piston (6), or **an end** of the thrust rod (8) **is** [[,]] ~~oriented toward the nozzle needle (14) being~~ received in said bore.

3. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, wherein the valve piston (6) or **the** thrust rod (8)**, together with** [[and]] the guide sleeve (16) form a unit, and wherein a blind bore is formed centrally in an end of the unit ~~formed by the valve piston (6) and the thrust rod (8)~~ toward the nozzle needle, the end of the nozzle needle (14) toward the valve piston being received in said blind bore.

4. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, wherein on the end of the nozzle needle (14) toward the valve piston (6), a thrust peg (15) is **positioned,** ~~embodied,~~ said thrust peg protruding into the guide sleeve (16) or into a central blind bore formed on the end of the valve piston (6) ~~or on the end of the thrust rod (8) toward the nozzle needle~~.

5. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, further comprising a bearing disk on the face end of the guide sleeve (16) remote from the nozzle needle (14) between the guide sleeve (16) and a nozzle spring (18), said bearing disk forming an abutment for a nozzle spring (18).

6. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, further comprising a collar on the guide sleeve (16), on its face end remote from the nozzle needle (14), said collar (28) forming an abutment for a nozzle spring (18).

7. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, wherein the dimensions of the guide sleeve (16), on its face end remote from the nozzle needle (14), are adapted to the dimensions of a nozzle spring (18).

8. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 4, further comprising a cylindrical recess (22) formed on said guide sleeve (16), on its face end toward the nozzle needle (14).

9. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, further comprising an adjusting piece (19) disposed between the nozzle needle (14) and either the valve piston (6) or the thrust rod (8).

10. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, further comprising a thrust rod (8) cooperating axially with said valve piston (6), said thrust rod (8) being disposed so as to be slightly pivotable relative to the longitudinal axis of the valve piston (6).

11. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 10, further comprising a blind bore (7), in the end of the valve piston (6) toward the nozzle needle (14), said blind bore (7) receiving a tapering end of the thrust rod (8).

12. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 1, wherein the end of the valve piston (6) toward the nozzle needle (14) can be deflected elastically in the radial direction out of the axis of symmetry of the valve piston (6).

13. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 3, wherein on the end of the nozzle needle (14) toward the valve piston (6), a thrust peg (15) is **positioned,** ~~embodied,~~ said thrust peg protruding into the guide sleeve (16) or into a central blind bore formed on the end of the valve piston (6) ~~or on the end of the thrust rod (8) toward the nozzle needle~~.

14. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 2, further comprising a bearing disk on the face end of the guide sleeve (16) remote from the nozzle needle (14) between the guide sleeve (16) and a nozzle spring (18), said bearing disk forming an abutment for a nozzle spring (18).

15. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 4, further comprising a bearing disk on the face end of the guide sleeve (16) remote from the nozzle needle (14) between the guide sleeve (16) and a nozzle spring (18), said bearing disk forming an abutment for a nozzle spring (18).

16. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 2, further comprising a collar on the guide sleeve (16), on its face end remote from the nozzle needle (14), said collar (28) forming an abutment for a nozzle spring (18).

17. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 4, further comprising on the guide sleeve (16), on its face end remote from the nozzle needle (14), said collar (28) forming an abutment for a nozzle spring (18).

18. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 2, wherein the dimensions of the guide sleeve (16), on its face end remote from the nozzle needle (14), are adapted to the dimensions of a nozzle spring (18).

19. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 4, wherein the dimensions of the guide sleeve (16), on its face end remote from the nozzle needle (14), are adapted to the dimensions of a nozzle spring (18).

20. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 5, further comprising a cylindrical recess (22) formed on said guide sleeve (16), on its face end toward the nozzle needle (14).

21. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 6, further comprising a cylindrical recess (22) formed on said guide sleeve (16), on its face end toward the nozzle needle (14).

22. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 4, further comprising a cylindrical recess (22) formed on said guide sleeve (16), on its face end toward the nozzle needle (14).

23. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 2, further comprising an adjusting piece (19) disposed between the nozzle needle (14) and either the valve piston (6) or the thrust rod (8).

24. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 4, further comprising an adjusting piece (19) disposed between the nozzle needle (14) and either the valve piston (6) or the thrust rod (8).

25. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 5, further comprising an adjusting piece (19) disposed between the nozzle needle (14) and either the valve piston (6) or the thrust rod (8).

26. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 2, further comprising a thrust rod (8) cooperating axially with said valve piston (6), said thrust rod (8) being disposed so as to be slightly pivotable relative to the longitudinal axis of the valve piston (6).

27. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 3, further comprising a thrust rod (8) cooperating axially with said valve piston (6), said thrust rod (8) being disposed so as to be slightly pivotable relative to the longitudinal axis of the valve piston (6).

28. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 7, further comprising a thrust rod (8) cooperating axially with said valve piston (6), said thrust rod (8) being disposed so as to be slightly pivotable relative to the longitudinal axis of the valve piston (6).

29. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 2, further comprising a blind bore (7), in the end of the valve piston (6) toward the nozzle needle (14), said blind bore (7) receiving a tapering end of the thrust rod (8).

30. (Currently amended) The **fuel** ~~common rail~~ injector according to claim 2, wherein the end of the valve piston (6) toward the nozzle needle (14) can be deflected elastically in the radial direction out of the axis of symmetry of the valve piston (6).